

Greenfield Pilot: Update



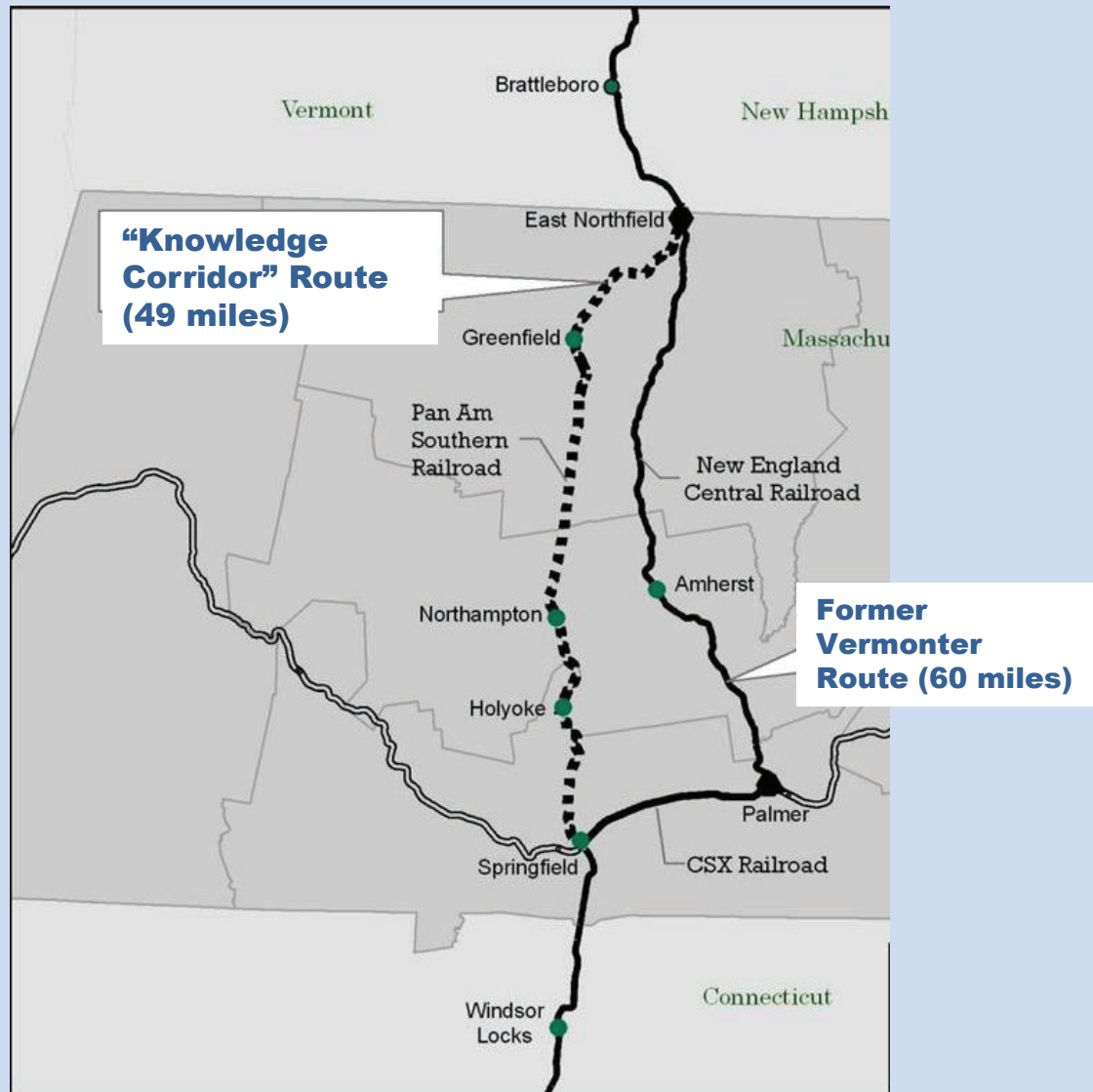
July 22, 2019

Knowledge Corridor - Background

- To improve passenger rail service MA used a \$72.8 M Federal grant and \$37.2 M in state funds to purchase and upgrade the former PanAm Railways freight line between Springfield and East Northfield.
- The resulting “Knowledge Corridor” provides a 23 minute time savings and a more direct route than the route that Amtrak had been using via Palmer and Amherst.
- New stations have been created at Greenfield, Northampton, Holyoke and Union Station at Springfield has been renovated



Knowledge Corridor - Background



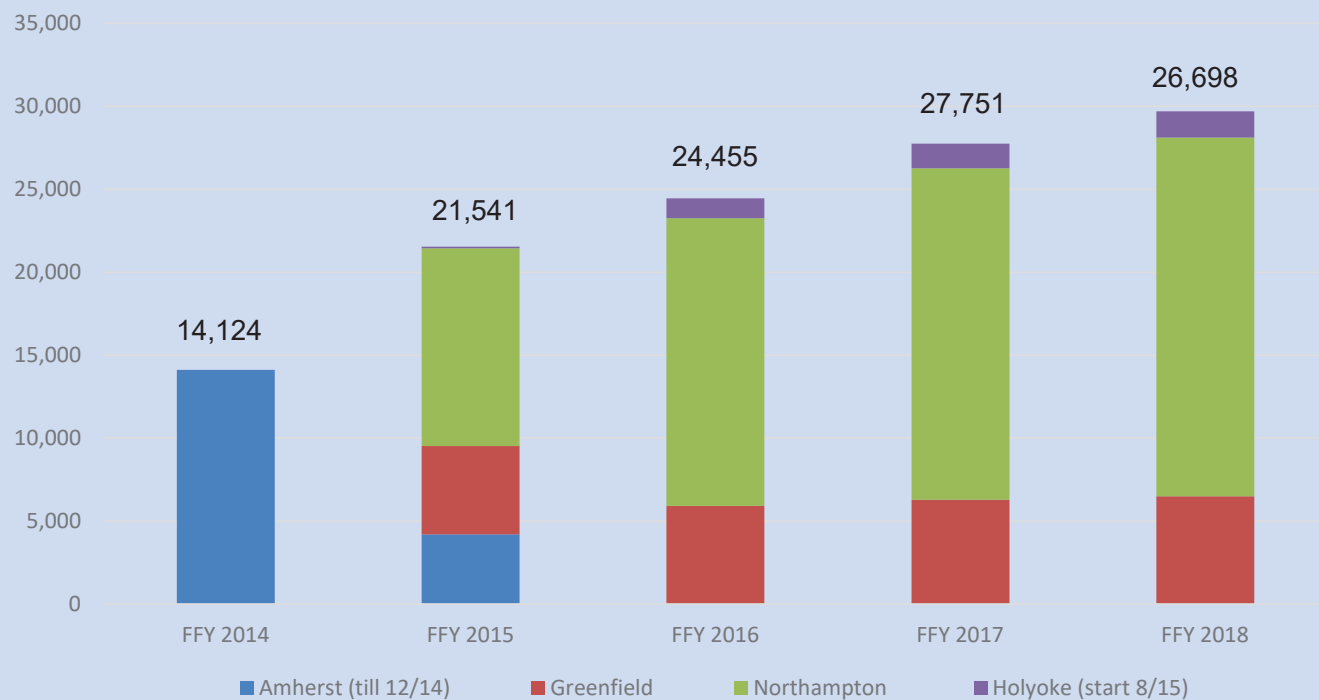
Knowledge Corridor –Current Service

- Vermonter operates one round trip per day, 7 days a week.
- Vermonter route is St Albans, VT to Washington, DC.
- MA stops are Greenfield, Northampton, Holyoke, Springfield
 - *Northampton is largest ridership (21,500 annual trips)*



Knowledge Corridor – Current Service

Annual Amtrak Vermonter Ridership at
Knowledge Corridor Stations



Knowledge Corridor: Opportunity

- Amtrak is now providing improved and additional service between Springfield and New Haven (the “Shuttle”) with a direct connection to NYC via the Northeast Corridor (NEC).
- MA’s 2018 Rail Plan recommended a pilot to test the viability of extending service to Greenfield
 - *Maximizes use of existing asset*
 - *Acknowledges strong request from Western MA for better passenger rail connections*
- MA has negotiated with CT and Amtrak to extend certain Amtrak trains from Springfield to Greenfield (“Greenfield Pilot”).
 - *Two round trip trains on weekdays*
 - *One round trip train on Saturday and Sunday*
 - *Intercity service with convenient connection through New Haven to NYC via Northeast Corridor*
 - *Expected net cost is approximately \$1m per year.*

Knowledge Corridor: Opportunity

- Greenfield Pilot expected to start running August 30 and operate for 2 years.
 - *Start date dependent on expedited FRA approval following extended Amtrak deliberations on added safety features affecting freight as well as passenger operations.*
- Pilot requires
 - *Completion of work on new platform at Springfield Union Station*
 - *Acceleration of corridor work to minimize later disruptions*
 - *FRA approval of revised exemption from PTC requirement*
- Pilot will test market
 - *24,000 new riders annually projected*
 - *Intercity service timed to facilitate day trips to NYC*
- Marketing
 - *Local supporters engaged by PVPC and FRCOG*
 - *MassDOT has provided \$100,000 grant for marketing*
 - *Amtrak will assist with national platform*

Knowledge Corridor: Opportunity

- Amtrak as provider means
 - *Seamless service and connections and ticketing to New York and DC*
 - *Desirable timeslots*
 - *Complete service package: Provides equipment, operations, ticketing, advertising, etc.*

- Amtrak as provider means
 - *Airline-like dynamic pricing keyed to market*
 - *Fares higher than commuter fares*
 - *State sponsor responsible for net cost of service*

Knowledge Corridor

- Going forward
 - *evaluate market*
 - MassDOT's Office of Transportation Planning will review Amtrak reports with PVPC and FRCOG.
 - Supplemental passenger counts if appropriate.
 - Ridership is agreed upon key metric
 - *if pilot successful and if costs are reasonable, MassDOT would seek to negotiate extension with CT and Amtrak.*

Questions?